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Claim 36. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A wheel according to Claim 35, wherein said continuous structural element is made of metallic material.

Claim 37. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A wheel according to Claim 35, wherein said continuous structural element includes high strength reinforcement fibers.

Claim 38. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A wheel according to Claim 37, wherein said high strength fibers are impregnated within a polymer matrix.

Claim 39. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A wheel according to Claim 38, wherein said polymer matrix is a thermoplastic polymer matrix.

Claim 40. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A wheel according to Claim 37, wherein said high strength fibers are continuous fibers that extend through said common portion.

Claim 41. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A wheel according to Claim 1, wherein said spoke engagement means has a region of variable cross section geometry, wherein said variable cross section geometry provides an overlying engagement with the hub flange.

Claim 42. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A wheel according to Claim 41, wherein said region of variable cross-section geometry is an integral portion of said duplex spoke.

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Claim 43. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A wheel according to Claim 41, wherein said variable cross section geometry includes a projecting portion extending outwardly from said spoke that engages a projecting portion extending from said hub flange.

Claim 44. (CANCELLED)

Claim 45. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A wheel according to Claim 1, wherein said wheel includes a plurality of said duplex spokes.

Claim 46. (CANCELLED)

Claim 47. (CANCELLED)

Claim 48. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A wheel according to Claim 1, wherein said hub flange engagement means for preventing axial and tangential movement comprises duplex spoke engagement means operative to at least one of (1) provide bracing against spoke tension and (2) to transmit torque between the hub flange and said rim.

Claim 49. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A wheel, comprising:  
a peripheral wheel rim;  
a central hub with a hub flange;  
a plurality of spokes extending between the rim and hub, wherein said spokes have a first portion connected to said rim and a second portion opposed to said first portion;

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wherein at least one of said spokes is a duplex spoke, including two structural spans, each extending between said rim and said hub with a common portion connected to said hub flange;

wherein said at least one duplex spoke includes engagement means to engage said hub flange and said hub flange includes engagement means to engage said duplex spoke engagement means;

wherein said hub flange engagement means includes means to prevent axial and tangential movement between the hub flange and the duplex spoke engagement means; and wherein said duplex spoke includes an overmolded slug and wherein said engagement means of said duplex spoke is located on said overmolded slug.

Claim 50. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A wheel, comprising:

a peripheral wheel rim;

a central hub with a hub flange;

a plurality of spokes extending between the rim and hub, wherein said spokes have a first portion connected to said rim and a second portion opposed to said first portion;

wherein at least one of said spokes is a duplex spoke, including two structural spans, each extending between said rim and said hub with a common portion connected to said hub flange;

wherein said at least one duplex spoke includes engagement means to engage said hub flange and said hub flange includes engagement means to engage said duplex spoke

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engagement means;

wherein said hub flange engagement means includes means to prevent axial and tangential movement between the hub flange and the duplex spoke engagement means;

wherein said hub flange includes an open cavity for engagement with said duplex spoke;

wherein said open cavity includes at least two recesses, wherein a first of said recesses is engaged with a first structural span of said duplex spoke and wherein a second of said recesses is engaged with a second structural span of said duplex spoke;

and including an axially extending gap between said first recess and said second recess for passage of said duplex spoke.

Claim 51. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A wheel, comprising:

a peripheral wheel rim;

a central hub with a hub flange;

a plurality of spokes extending between the rim and hub, wherein said spokes have a first portion connected to said rim and a second portion opposed to said first portion;

wherein at least one of said spokes is a duplex spoke, including two structural spans, each extending between said rim and hub with a common portion connected to said hub flange;

wherein said at least one duplex spoke includes engagement means to engage said hub flange and said hub flange includes engagement means to engage said duplex spoke engagement means;

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wherein said hub flange engagement means includes means to prevent axial and tangential movement between the hub flange and the duplex spoke engagement means; wherein said spoke engagement means has a region of variable cross section geometry, wherein said variable cross section geometry provides an overlying engagement with the hub flange; wherein said variable cross section geometry includes a projecting portion extending outwardly from said spoke that engages a projecting portion extending outwardly from said hub flange; and including a spoke extension affixed to said duplex spoke, wherein said spoke extension includes said projecting portion of said spoke.

Claim 52. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A wheel comprising:

a peripheral wheel rim;  
a central hub with a hub flange;  
a plurality of spokes extending between the rim and hub, wherein said spokes have a first portion connected to said rim and a second portion opposed to said first portion;  
wherein at least one of said spokes is a duplex spoke, including two structural spans, each extending between said rim and hub with a common portion connected to said hub flange;  
wherein said at least one duplex spoke includes engagement means to engage said hub flange and said hub flange includes engagement means to engage said duplex spoke engagement means;

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wherein said hub flange engagement means includes means to prevent axial and tangential movement between the hub flange and the duplex spoke engagement means; and including an auxiliary member, wherein the auxiliary member serves to at least one of retain, engage, and clamp said spoke to said hub flange.

Claim 53. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A wheel comprising:

- a peripheral wheel rim;
- a central hub with a hub flange;
- a plurality of spokes extending between the rim and hub, wherein the spokes have a first portion connected to said rim and a second portion opposed to said first portion;
- wherein at least one of said spokes is a duplex spoke, including two structural spans, each extending between said rim and said hub with a common portion connected to said hub flange;
- wherein said at least one duplex spoke includes engagement means to engage said hub flange and said hub flange includes engagement means to engage said duplex spoke engagement means;
- wherein said hub flange engagement means includes means to prevent axial and tangential movement between the hub flange and the duplex spoke engagement means;
- and including an intermediary member, wherein said spoke is engaged to said intermediary member and said intermediary member is connected to said hub flange.

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Claim 54. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A wheel according to Claim 6, wherein said central hub includes an axle and wherein said reinforcement element is a cylindrical element surrounding said axle.

Claim 55. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A wheel according to Claim 1, wherein said two structural spans of said duplex spoke are generally aligned without an offset kink.

Claim 56. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A wheel according to Claim 1, wherein said duplex spoke engagement means is deformable to adjust the fitment between said duplex spoke engagement means and said hub flange engagement means.

Claim 57. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A wheel according to Claim 1, wherein said at least one duplex spoke includes engagement means to directly engage said hub flange and said hub flange includes engagement means to directly engage said duplex spoke engagement means.